

REMARKS

Upon entry of the present Reply, claims 1-10, 43, 44, 46-53, and 55-63 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 6, 8, 10, 43, 50, 52, 53, 55, 62 and 63 are amended and claims 45, 54 and 64 are canceled herein. Claims 11-42 were previously canceled.

Support for the amendment of claims 1, 43 and 55 is found, for example, in the specification at page 18, lines 3-8 and in original claim 10. Claims 8, 10, 52, 53, 62 and 63 are amended to correspond to the amendment of the independent claims. Claims 6, 50 and 60 are amended to address the Section 112 issue raised by the Examiner, to remove the parentheses and insert commas.

Indefiniteness and Claim Objection Issues

The Examiner contended in the Office Action that the phrase "(wherein Z independently may be H, an alkali metal ion, or Z₂ may be an alkaline earth metal ion)" is indefinite. Applicants have amended this in claims to remove the parentheses. Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw this objection.

Applicants respectfully submit that the objections to claims 1, 43, 45, 54 and 64 set forth on page 7 of the Office Action are rendered moot by the amendment of claims 1, 43 and 55.

Applicants respectfully submit that the Section 112, second paragraph rejections at pp. 8-9 of the Office Action are rendered moot by the claim amendments.

Appropriate reconsideration and withdrawal of the various claim objections and indefiniteness rejections are respectfully requested.

Prior Art Issues

The claims stand rejected as anticipated and/or as obvious over several references. Applicants have amended the claims and the claims are believed to fully distinguish over and to be fully patentable over each of the cited references and/or combinations thereof. Specifically, none of the cited references are believed to disclose or suggest the inclusion of the ethylenediamine or its methyl-substituted derivatives; propylenediamine or its methyl-substituted derivatives; diethylenetriamine or its methyl-

substituted derivatives; or a polymer of an aliphatic amine, together with the other components specified in the presently pending claims.

For at least the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that the presently pending claims address and overcome all of the rejections set forth in the Office Action mailed March 14, 2007, and that these claims fully patentably distinguish over the prior art of record. Notice to such effect is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that the present application and claims are in condition for allowance and notice to such effect is respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner consider that a telephone interview would be helpful to expedite favorable prosecution, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Applicants submit herewith the fee for a two month extension of time. In the event any additional fees are due in connection with the filing of this paper, the Commissioner is authorized to charge those fees to our Deposit Account No. 18-0988, docket No. ATOTPO109US.

Respectfully submitted,
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